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IDEAS about 4-H Clubs and YMW

Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture



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Dear Coworker:

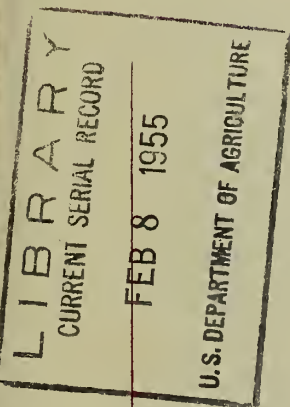
One of the most elusive concepts in our culture today is a really satisfying definition of leadership. Education is sometimes said to spring from and contribute to our nation's need for leaders in industry, agriculture and the professions. Special schools and institutes are established to teach it. Any new book, or leaflet on the subject is immediately a best seller. We, in Extension work, recognize local leaders as a key to progress and our effectiveness.

Still we ask what is a leader? Is he born or is he made? How does one become a leader? Can he enroll in a project or a course and be graduated a leader? Is it a cloak or a uniform to be donned or discarded at will? Or does it come from within and grow on one, like wool on a sheep?

Consider Jesus, whose birthday we herald. As our greatest leader of all time, what made Him so? By what graces do we recognize Him?

He was born of humble circumstance. As one of the multitude, He understood the problems of the needy; He recognized the position of authority as well. He grew in wisdom and in understanding through fellowship with His brother man. He led by example and precept. He developed others to lead in his place and to multiply and perpetuate His influence. He delegated responsibility and had an abiding faith in all men. He expected and inspired much but recognized and rewarded every effort. He was courageous and daring in the face of adversity; gentle and understanding with the meek. He gave His energies, His possessions and finally Himself---

To help others - and through them gained universal glory and everlasting life.



But is His type of leadership effective today? Is it humanly realistic to always give or serve or sympathize and never to receive? Well, no. But still, yes! When does giving and serving and sharing set the stage for receiving? We hope there comes to you, as an Extension worker, life's richest satisfaction. It comes sometimes at the end of the extra mile, quietly, from out of nowhere. You are tired, troubled or alone. Yet suddenly you feel another. He falls into step. He holds your hand. He whispers in your ear. He seems to say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant ----as you did it to one of the least of these my brethern, you did it to me."

And from then on, you no longer try to be a leader. You are one!

THIRTY-THIRD NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CONGRESS

It is pleasant and satisfying to record another highly successful Congress. The delegates represented their States and Territories in a splendid manner. 4-H may well be proud to have as guests and visitors, College Presidents, Governors, Deans, Directors, information people, other Extension workers, and a host of friends. International visitors helped very much. Donors, as usual, were excellent hosts.

To name some highlights should not lessen appreciation of others. Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, and Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson, were most impressive, as was Administrator C. M. Ferguson.

The preview and naming of the new movie, in which the Ford Motor Company cooperated, was a highlight. Other items were meals, Sunday Evening Club, Style Revue, international panel, Ed Sullivan, talent show, and Purdue Glee Club. Pointed up for State leaders' meetings were: Extension Subcommittee report, farm and home unit approach, the 4-ply approach, and leadership skills.

We hereby tender orchids to the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, extension committees, donors, and all who planned and helped.

CHARTS USED IN LEADERS MEETING AT CONGRESS

The set of 14 charts on "Tooling Up for the Job" is now being made into a USDA filmstrip (color) and will soon be available for your order. Watch for further announcement in the January Extension Review and by letter from this office.

CLUB MEMBERS TO REPORT TO THE NATION

As announced at Club Congress, six young people will have the opportunity to make a personal report to National leaders during National 4-H Club Week next March. The following six members will be 1955 representatives:

Citizenship	-	Sara Traughber, Tennessee Cephas Williamson, Georgia
Leadership	-	Leo Denese Corriveau, Michigan (girl) Ralph E. Lamar, III, New York
Achievement	-	Coleta Lou McAllister, Oklahoma Elden Holsapple, Indiana

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE

The Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work requested our office to study the many worthy welfare projects and summarize them into a brief statement. In the statement entitled, "Opportunities to Share," which will be sent to you under separate cover, we have attempted to list some worthy opportunities that have a direct relationship to youth of other lands.

CLOVER AWARDS FOR 30 AND 35 YEARS

Clover pins for the ruby and the sapphire milestones are now available through the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, and certificates can be ordered from USDA. This is in line with the action taken by the Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work last June.

AGE TRENDS IN CLUB WORK

This being the Annual Report season, you are no doubt conscious of the trends in 4-H Club work. Although enrollment has increased, the average age has been going down each year.

	Percent <u>12 and under</u>	Percent <u>13 - 15</u>	Percent <u>16 and over</u>
In 1935	40.0	39.6	20.4
In 1953	52.7	34.7	12.6

Many States tell us that plans for 1955 include some positive attempt to extend the time boys and girls stay in 4-H Club work? Won't you share your good ideas with us?

4-H MARKETING

By now, all State leaders should have received a copy of the special report of 4-H Club work in marketing. There is much interest in this area and we are anxious to be kept abreast of new developments.

One of the better known 4-H marketing programs is the one in grain marketing, sponsored for the fifth consecutive year by the Chicago Board of Trade. The State awards are expense-paid tours for two 4-H Club members and chaperon to a grain marketing clinic and tour in Chicago. The dates for this activity in 1955 are January 11-13. The following States participate: Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin.

A conference on this same subject has been held in the four-State area of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana for the past several years. It has involved Extension workers and representatives of the trades.

FARM BUSINESS TRAINING

"Our progress in the area of farm business training" will be the theme of an interstate conference at Harrisburg, Penna. on March 3 and 4. The American Institute of Cooperation is aiding in setting up the two-day meeting for representative State supervisors of vocational education, State 4-H Club leaders, and staff members of the State Departments of Agricultural Economics to review progress and needs in the field. This conference will have some very direct application to our work with young men and women.

The States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia have been invited to take part during the meeting.

As this issue of Ideas goes to press, another workshop on farm business training for Extension workers is being conducted in Mississippi. Howard McClarren of A.I.C. is participating. C. I. Smith, State 4-H Club Leader is speaking to the group on "How Cooperatives May Work with 4-H Club Groups".

SHARING WITH FRIENDS IN OTHER LANDS

There are increasing opportunities to share the 4-H ideal and ideas with other lands. Recently, we received an invitation for several 4-H Club members to attend the Island 4-H Club Achievement Day in Jamaica.

We shall be able soon to have a first-hand report of experiences in Pakistan. Mary Elsie Border of Kansas is to return home in mid-December after two years in Pakistan. We understand that Mary Elsie has done a magnificent piece of work in opening the field of home economics Extension work in that country. The current request for more help is a direct tribute to her good work.

A NEW WAY TO TELL THE 4-H STORY

"4-H Clubs go to Town" was the theme of an exhibit developed in a suburban marketing center near Boston by the Club members and leaders of Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

A large corral was put up near the store. Inside the corral was a barnyard with all the animals represented by 4-H Club projects. Periodically, 4-H Club members demonstrated how they worked with their animals. Inside the store, a space was set aside for exhibits and demonstrations. There were other allied activities including T.V. and radio programs. It is estimated that well over 100,000 people visited the exhibit. Many city boys, girls and their parents learned about 4-H for the first time.

NATIONAL DRESS REVUE FEATURES "TREASURES"

Fashions of yesteryear, 1929 to be exact, stepped out of the Treasure Chest and highlighted the 1954 National 4-H Dress Revue at Chicago. The outfits were a 4-H uniform from Pennsylvania and a State winning dress from Massachusetts. Dorothea Ruth, now Mrs. Angus Dauple, living in Mandalay, Burma, furnished the uniform of plain green with white collar and cuffs. The pink organdy dress with embroidered wool flowers was made by Mrs. Elizabeth Bean Goodrich, the first dress revue winner from her State to attend the National Club Congress.

Janet Hammer, a 4-H'er from Scales Mound, Illinois, received \$500 toward her future education as a result of being a good seamstress. Janet entered a contest sponsored by a sewing machine company and was one of 4 girls to receive national honors. Janet was a guest at a special breakfast in Chicago.

JUNIOR POULTRY FACT-FINDING CONFERENCE

The Second Annual Junior Poultry Fact-Finding Conference will be held February 11-13, 1955, at Kansas City, Missouri. Emphasis will be on processing and marketing. Some 20 States have indicated they will arrange 4-H participation.

ACTIVITY IN THE YMW /RE:

On Saturday, January 19, the Utopia Clubs of Kentucky will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary, according to word received from Carl W. Jones, field agent in charge of this work. George Foster will represent the Federal office on this occasion.

The four district YMW conferences in Minnesota were themed to "Our Patriots' Dream". The conference programs were planned by State rural youth staff members and a committee made up of young people from within the districts. For the current year, they decided to hold district conferences in the fall and then the Short Course and Conference in late March, a turn-about of last year's timing. A set of 21 agree-disagree statements sparked the discussions at the district meetings.

In Indiana, January 6 will be State Rural Youth Day at Purdue. This will be the nineteenth annual event of this kind. Dr. Frank D. Slutz of Dayton, Ohio and International Farm Youth Exchange students will be program headliners.

Indiana has made another investment in leadership training. Four regional schools were held for county rural youth officers and advisers. The schools were of one-day length, starting at 9:30 a.m. and closing at 10:00 p.m.

December 19 through 21 are the dates of the Conference for Young Men and Women in North Dakota. Discussions, leadership workshops, and recreation are all included.

Tennessee announces the eighth annual Leadership School for Young Farmers and Homemakers. Dates are January 9 to 12. The school trains selected young men and women for leadership in their respective counties. It gives them opportunity to discuss and outline activities they believe will be of greatest service to the young people whom they represent.

Wisconsin holds Farm and Home Week from January 31 through February 4. The final day is Rural Youth Day. This is a time for members from all young men's and women's groups in the State to get better acquainted and to secure new ideas on club programs. Farm, home, and community subject matters will be discussed, and a party will be held in the evening.

Plans are well along for the Tri-State YMW Conference, to be held next March. A committee of young people from New York and Pennsylvania, who planned with Extension workers, have suggested the general theme of "You and Better Living"--You and Your Organization, You and Continuing Education, You and Personal Contacts, You and Recreation, You and Family Relations, You and Civic Responsibility.

Several Midwestern States are making participation plans for the Seventh Annual Western Regional Conference for Rural Young Adults. The event is many months away, next June 3 to 5, but a good program takes long-time planning. South Dakota State College will be host. Using the theme "We Build the Ladder by Which We Rise", workshops will be centered about courtship and marriage, program planning, crafts, and party planning.

Maine reports that Young Adult Group Likes New Discussion Program. Mrs. Mildred Burns of Union, Maine writes: "The YMW group of Union is pleasantly surprised to find the problems of 'Law and Justice' discussion programs both interesting and stimulating. A few members had fears we would find this series dry. The recordings are exceptionally well received and our discussions have been most interesting. As this series of meetings terminates on December 17, we hope there will be material available to us for another course after Christmas." This group completed "World Affairs are Your Affairs" last winter.

Andy Eure reports that the National 4-H Club Foundation still needs your cooperation in establishing several more test groups for these discussion programs.

SHARING 4-H IDEAS WITH THE STATES

ARIZONA - Recognition for Local Leaders

Local Club leaders are now to receive the National 4-H Club News, courtesy of the Arizona Bankers Association. The Bankers also provide the clover pins for 4-H leaders.

ARKANSAS - Achievement cards, billfold size

The completion certificates have now been reduced to billfold size cards and are available in three colors: Green for ages 10-12, gold for ages 13-15, and purple for ages 16 and above. The State also has a membership card and an "A" card that can be presented to members who receive "A" rating on awards programs.

KANSAS - Enrollment Month, November 15 to December 15

The State of Kansas is going all out for an enrollment month, proclaimed by the governor as November 15 to December 15. Each county is encouraged to organize and complete a campaign to secure new Club members and organize new clubs. The State staff prepared for county workers an enrollment kit, giving such things as the know-how to organizing clubs, training leaders and keeping them happy, expanding enrollment, getting parent interest, etc.

We don't know how many kits Kansas would have for distribution to other States, but perhaps they might circulate a few on a loan basis.

MASSACHUSETTS - Two new aids

"Health in the 4-H Program," a new leaflet prepared for leaders, contains suggestions for carrying on a health program in a 4-H Club. A Junior Leadership Certificate will be issued for the first time to all young people participating in this phase of the State program.

MARYLAND - Training in Public Speaking

Dorothy Emerson has now put in written form the excellent suggestions she includes in her workshops on the topic. The title is "Speak for Yourself as a Maryland 4-H Club Member."

NEW JERSEY - 4-H Favorite Food Show

The 4-H Foods Program in New Jersey gained prominence through the participation of 57 Club members in the State-wide 4-H Favorite Food Show. This event took place at Atlantic City in connection with the Mid-Atlantic Farm Show. Regional events were held previously. Each contestant selected a favorite food to prepare in keeping with the program followed throughout the year. Stoves, working, and display space were provided. Judging points included appearance of the club member, the food prepared, the menu, originality, and the manner in which the food was displayed. This occasion was sponsored and included a recognition banquet. Each contestant was accompanied by a parent or an adult chaperon whose expenses were taken care of by the sponsor. Several other States have similar plans for glamorizing the foods program.

VIRGINIA - Forest Plantings

Club members are eligible to receive 75,000 tree seedlings, 500 to a member, under a program worked out with the Virginia Forest Service and aimed to step up 4-H forestry programs.

WASHINGTON - Handbook for Agents

Extension agents now have a handbook provided for them, outlining some suggested 4-H methods and tools to use. The response to this new publication is excellent.

WASHINGTON-IDAHO - Meeting with Boy Scouts

A constructive meeting was held in Spokane to discuss ways for the two groups to work together. State 4-H staff members and Scout executives of the two States attended, along with Elmaar Bakken, National Director of Rural Scouting, and Fern Shipley of our staff.

NEWS OF OUR COWORKERS

Arizona welcomes Graham Wright as State 4-H Club Leader, a position which has been vacant for an extended period. Graham has most recently been employed in Indiana, but had previous experience in Arkansas and Tennessee.

M. Lucile Graves, assistant State Club Leader in Virginia, has resigned her position to get married.

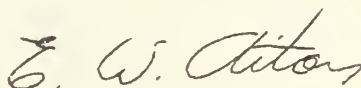
Marie Bishop of Iowa has chosen Michigan for her advanced study during the winter period. Marie is going to do intensive study of the activities of high school age youth. Roger Lawrence, also, has plans for some leave during part of 1955.

Any way you measure it, 1954 has been a good year for 4-H Club and YMW programs. Greatest progress is in the addition of many new staff members for county, State and National work. They join the ranks of dedicated leaders who work diligently to help young people.

Another significant area of progress is the effective manner in which the Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work has smoothly operated under its new charter. The system of National 4-H development committees is geared to handle basic problems efficiently. Thanks and congratulations to the outgoing members for their fine service. Everyone has sensed, we hope, the high esteem in which Extension work is regarded everywhere.

As we count our many blessings at year's end, may we include, with others, the enlarged opportunity which is ours for 1955 under our new theme. "Improving Family and Community Living."

Sincerely yours,



E. W. Aiton, Director
Division of 4-H Club and YMW Programs

Associate Leaders:

Tena Bishop
George Foster
Mylb Downey
C. C. Lang
Fern Shipley

Enclosures.

